

CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS - MAYOR TOM HANAFAN

Press Release

Friday, December 21, 2012

BEACH BOYS TO OPEN RIVER'S EDGE PARK

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa – Today, Mayor Tom Hanafan, American National Bank President Steve Ritzman and Pete Tulipana President & CEO of the Iowa West Foundation announced that “America’s Band” THE BEACH BOYS will open Council Bluff’s new River’s Edge Park with a free concert the evening of May 25th. American National Bank will sponsor this event and is proud to be bringing the Beach Boys back to the Metro area.

Having sold albums in the tens of millions, they continue to be one of the most successful live acts in music today...and show no signs of slowing down! Earlier this year, The Beach Boys concluded a 75 concert date limited 50th Anniversary Reunion Tour in which the original members reunited and released "That's Why God Made the Radio," the album debuted at # 3 on the Billboard charts, their highest chart position in 37 years and an unprecedented milestone.

The Beach Boys play an astoundingly busy schedule of concerts, averaging 150 shows a year under the leadership of original member (and lead singer) Mike Love. With his cousin, Brian Wilson, Love wrote the classics “Fun, Fun, Fun,” “I Get Around,” “Help Me Rhonda,” “California Girls” and the Grammy nominated “Good Vibrations.” Years later, he showed he still had the lyrical chops by co-writing the Number 1 hit “Kokomo.”

Also joining Love is Beach Boy veteran and Grammy winner Bruce Johnston (Barry Manilow’s “I Write the Songs”) who along with Christian Love, Randell Kirsch, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill and Scott Totten continue the legacy of the iconic American band.

Construction is almost finished on the “signature” Council Bluff’s River’s Edge Park that will offer 85 acres for recreation, outdoor movies and concerts, hiking, biking and other uses. To celebrate this remarkable regional riverfront park the City of Council Bluffs and the Iowa West Foundation are planning a three-week long Grand Opening Celebration starting with the Beach Boys on Memorial Day weekend. The events planned will showcase all the possibilities that the River’s Edge Park can provide including musical concerts, movies, a community arts festival, fireworks, sporting events, and a host of other community and family events.

RIVER’S EDGE PARK-

The riverfront park is being developed at the foot of the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge that links Council Bluffs and Omaha and will stretch north and south of the Council Bluffs landing of the pedestrian bridge. A two-lane park road will begin on the north side of Harrah’s parking lot and extend to the 150 stall parking lot inside the park and connecting to paved walking-biking trails in the park and to the bridge. Additional event parking is available in Harrah’s parking lot and adjacent to the park.

The Great Lawn provides residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy large events and activities on the banks of the Missouri River. Its five acres of level turf offer unlimited opportunities for youth games, practices, and tournaments. It can also accommodate unique recreational activities requiring a large green space or it can be formatted into numerous smaller spaces. Concerts and events can also utilize the Great Lawn. Concert power and utilities for stage setups are provided at two locations. The event capability is uniquely designed to allow for an intimate concert, or major, regional events. The entire Great Lawn is irrigated and will be maintained as quality turf. The Great Lawn is lighted for nighttime use. The Omaha skyline provides a breathtaking backdrop to the Great Lawn.

The River's Edge Plaza/Roadway offers a true rivers edge walk, allowing visitors to stroll along the banks of the mighty Missouri River. Pedestrian lighting is provided for visitors evening enjoyment. A continuous paved area is provided for the staging of carnivals and other events requiring a hard surface. Electrical connections and other amenities are available in this area.

The Amphitheatre on the east of the park has been developed to provide a seating area for smaller intimate events or as a visual backdrop for larger events. It has been carved from the Missouri River levee. An event playing at the foot of the amphitheatre can enjoy an audience of 1,000. By utilizing a small portion of the Great Lawn, however, an audience of 2,000-3,000 can enjoy and Amphitheatre event.

River's Edge Park is a testament to partnerships and Council Bluff's ability to create them. With major funding and support initially provided by the Iowa West Foundation, the Park's partners grew to include Iowa's Great Places and Vision Iowa. The Council Bluffs Friends of the Park Foundation offered the entire community an opportunity to partner in the funding of the park. Eventually over \$100,000.00 was raised from more than 600 individuals. A Donor Plaza was created in the park to acknowledge this community support and partnerships.

Following the flood of 2011, the City reduced the construction cost of the park by approximately \$3 million dollars. This action was taken to provide additional financial resources for the effort to repair the communities flood damaged infrastructure. Still, the commitment of the City and its primary funding partner, the Iowa West Foundation, remained strong and construction of the park moved forward. It is estimated the final cost for Phase 1 construction of the park and associated engineering will be \$11 million dollars. The Iowa West Foundation has awarded at grant to the city for \$5.45 million and the remainder is provided by City secured funding including grants from the State and a local fund raiser.

To find out more about River's Edge Park and find out when other events for the Grand Opening are announced visit us on the web at www.cbarksandrec.org or like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/RiversEdgeParkCB>

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